

MONTANA WOLF PROGRAM - WEEKLY REPORT

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Ken McDonald, Wildlife Bureau Chief
SUBJECT: Wolf Program Activities and Related Information
WEEK OF: April 16-22, 2011

Contributors to the Montana Wolf Weekly are Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), Universities, USDA Wildlife Services (WS), the National Park Service (NPS; Glacier NP; Yellowstone National Park will be reported in the Wyoming Wolf Weekly), US Forest Service, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and the Blackfeet Nation.

Highlighted activities relate to: monitoring, wolf-livestock interactions, outreach and education, research, law enforcement, and other miscellaneous topics of public interest. The Weekly Report will be available each Monday, covering the previous week. It and other wolf program information (including the 2009 annual report) can be found on the FWP website.

WOLF MONITORING ACTIVITIES:

4/18: Smucker and Bradley scouted the Lower Clark Fork during the week of the 18th. Smucker located the Mineral Mtn and DeBorgia packs but there is still too much snow in these areas to initiate trapping. Bradley located sign of the Bitterroot Range pack but weather precludes trapping there as well. Monitoring efforts will resume the week of the 24th. Heavy snowloads throughout western Montana will likely set back trapping efforts in much of the region until later in the spring.

4/20: Idaho Fish and Game reported that a female wolf with a GPS collar deployed this past winter in Idaho has been found recently in Montana in the Superior and Fish Creek areas of the lower Clark Fork. Smucker heard the collar near Superior on the 4/20.

WOLF-LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES:

4/18: WS investigated and confirmed a calf killed by wolves on private land in Tom Miner Basin, Paradise Valley. There has been regular wolf activity in the area but no collared wolves have been found. Tracking revealed wolf visitation to cattle on two evenings following the depredation and indicates there are at least 3 wolves in this group. FWP has authorized WS to remove 1 wolf. A shoot on sight permit has been issued to the producer for 1 wolf. Collaring attempts have ceased due to concerns with grizzly bear activity in the area.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION:

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES:

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES:

OTHER UPDATES:

To learn more about Montana's wolf population, the Montana program and to help FWP monitor wolves by reporting wolf sign, visit FWP online. Use the following shortcut link and be sure to update your bookmarks: <http://fwp.mt.gov/wolf>

To anonymously report a dead or injured wolf or suspected illegal activity, call: 1-800-TIP-MONT or 1-800-847-6668.

To request an investigation of injured or dead livestock, call USDA Wildlife Services directly in western Montana / Helena area at 406-458-0106 or in eastern Montana at the statewide office at 406-657-6464. Or, call your nearest FWP representative to have your call referred to Wildlife Services.

If you have a confirmed or probable livestock death loss due to wolves, USDA Wildlife Services will supply you with a copy of the Loss Reimbursement Application form. For more information, see <http://liv.mt.gov/liv/LM/index.asp> Or, contact the Livestock Loss Reduction and Mitigation Program Coordinator, George Edwards at the Montana Department of Livestock at 406-444-5609.